



Bath Opera: Donizetti's *The Elixir of Love*

Summer Tour 2026 · June–July

Bath Opera returns this summer with Donizetti's much-loved comic opera *The Elixir of Love*, following the success of its sell-out *Carmen* earlier this year. Romantic, funny and sung in English, it is full of memorable melodies you will be humming long after the performance. At 90 minutes plus an interval, it is an ideal summer outing for both devoted opera-goers and newcomers

The story — love, deception, and a very dodgy bottle of wine



The characters of The Elixir of Love

Our production is set in a **sun-baked Italian village in the 1950s** — think Fiat 500s, summer dresses and a lively village square.

At the heart of the story is **Nemorino**, a shy, kind-hearted young farmer deeply in love with the clever, independent **Adina**. Adina is reading the legend of Tristan and Isolde and is captivated by the love potion that made Tristan irresistible. Nemorino is immediately intrigued.

Then in rolls **Dr Dulcamara**, a grand, self-important travelling quack doctor, promising miracle cures for everything from bad luck to old age. Nemorino asks him for Tristan's love potion. Dulcamara has nothing of the sort, but happily sells him a bottle of wine as the real thing, with one convenient condition: it will take exactly a day to work — precisely as long as he plans to stay in the village.

Meanwhile, the swaggering army sergeant **Belcore** turns his attention to Adina and proposes on the spot. Amused, Adina does not refuse.

So begins a delightful comic tangle of pride, jealousy, misunderstanding and growing love, all set to Donizetti's irresistible music, including the famous aria *Una furtiva lagrima*, which has moved audiences for nearly two centuries. We will not spoil the ending, but there is a reason this opera has delighted audiences for almost two hundred years.

The people behind the production

Ryan Graham Hinds — Stage Director



Ryan is an experienced stage director with a strong musical theatre background, bringing warmth and clarity to comic opera. His 1950s Italian setting creates a vivid, sunlit world that feels both fresh and timeless.

Ryan says: *"Donizetti's fun and charming opera is perfect for summertime! With some familiar Bath Opera faces, a hard-working team from Chorus to Designers, and some truly lovely new voices, audiences are in for a real treat. Directing this production with this wonderful company has let me find the fun and romance in the story and its characters..and I so hope that you enjoy it, too."*

Lilly Bryan — Resident Designer Lilly is a recent MA graduate of Bristol Old Vic Theatre School whose work is shaped by fashion history and surrealism. Those who saw *Carmen* will remember her rich, character-led costumes. For *The Elixir of Love*, she brings that same imaginative eye to the colours and textures of 1950s rural Italy.



Costume illustrations by Lilly Bryan: Adina (left) and Nemorino (right)

Meet the cast

Stephen Jeffes (Nemorino) and Rosie Rowell (Adina) in rehearsal



Stephen Jeffes — Nemorino (tenor)

A former BBC Singers member, Stephen has performed with the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Ensemble Modern. Many will remember his compelling Don José in Bath Opera's *Carmen*.

Rosie Rowell — Adina (soprano)

A Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama graduate and winner of the inaugural Adelina Patti Prize, Rosie has performed with Welsh National Opera and Grange Park Opera.

Jonathan Jolly — Belcore (baritone)

Trained at Cambridge and RWCMD, Jonathan made his professional operatic debut at Opera Holland Park in 2025. He delights as the swaggering Sergeant Belcore — a man of heroic self-belief, impressive confidence, and very little inclination to question either.

Andrew Havers — Dr Dulcamara (baritone) A much-loved Bath Opera stalwart whose previous roles include Leporello, Papageno, Figaro and Guglielmo. As the irrepressible quack doctor Dulcamara, he is very much in his element.

Imogen Rowe — Gianetta (soprano) Imogen is completing her postgraduate studies at RWCMD and performs with the BBC National Chorus of Wales. She sang Mercédès in Bath Opera's *Carmen* earlier this year.

The chorus

Every great opera needs a strong chorus, and Bath Opera is lucky to have such a committed and talented one. Bringing Adina's village to life in *The Elixir of Love* are **Becky Holden, Jo Hunt, Hannah Shaw, Alex Pinkstone, Samantha McDonough, Richard Hunt and Robin Noad**.

The chorus at work in the rehearsal room



Supporting the next generation of opera singers

Bath Opera is especially proud of the number of emerging professional artists involved in this production, and of the chance to support them at an important stage in their careers.

Four members of the company are supported through **BOYADS** — the Bath Opera Young Artists Development Scheme — introduced in 2025 to provide financial honoraria for early-career singers and creatives aged 30 and under. At a point when paid opportunities in the arts are limited, that support makes a real difference.



Jonathan Jolly (Belcore) and Imogen Rowe (Gianetta) — both supported by BOYADS

Jonathan Jolly (Belcore) is a recent Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama graduate who made his professional operatic debut at Opera Holland Park in 2025. **Imogen Rowe** (Gianetta) is completing postgraduate study at RWCMD and performs with the BBC National Chorus of Wales; she also appeared with Bath Opera in *Carmen* earlier this year. Both are at the stage of a career when sustained performing experience across multiple venues can make a real difference.

In the chorus, **Alex Pinkstone** holds an MA in Music Performance from Bath Spa University and is about to begin a Master of Performance at the Royal Northern College of Music. Our designer, **Lilly Bryan**, is a recent MA graduate of Bristol Old Vic Theatre School who is building her professional stage portfolio.

When you book for *The Elixir of Love*, you are not only coming to a wonderful evening or afternoon of opera — you are also helping Bath Opera invest in artists we hope will be performing professionally for many years to come.

About Bath Opera

Bath Opera is a Bath-based registered charity (no. 1185066) that has been producing opera in and around the city for more than 50 years. This spring's *Carmen* sold out all three performances at the Roper Theatre, Hayesfield School; 78% of audiences rated it “excellent”, and almost half were attending a Bath Opera production for the first time.

Book your tickets

The Elixir of Love visits three venues in the Bath Box Office area this summer. Bath tickets are £21.00, including booking fee, with concessions for groups and under-27s shown below. **Supporter tickets** (£31.50 at Bath and Wincanton, £26.50 at Pewsey) directly support the BOYADS scheme.

The Mission Theatre, Bath

Friday 26 June, 7.30pm · **Saturday 27 June, 2.30pm** (matinee — new for 2026!) An intimate, characterful venue in the heart of Bath, perfect for experiencing opera up close.

<https://www.bathboxoffice.org.uk/search?term=elixir>

Bouverie Hall, Pewsey

Saturday 5 July, 2.30pm In the heart of the beautiful Vale of Pewsey — ideal for audiences in Pewsey, Marlborough and Devizes.

<https://www.bathboxoffice.org.uk/search?term=elixir>

Wincanton Memorial Hall, Wincanton

Friday 10 July, 7.30pm · **Saturday 11 July, 7.30pm** Two opportunities to see the show in the heart of Somerset.

<https://www.bathboxoffice.org.uk/search?term=elixir>

Additional performances at Strode Theatre (Street), Great Chalfield and Seend are also available — for tickets and full tour details, visit www.bathopera.com/elixir-of-love

Ticket prices

Venue	Full price	Supporter	Groups (10+)	Under 27s
The Mission Bath	£21.00	£31.50	£18.00	£11.50
Bouverie Hall, Pewsey	£19.00	£26.50	£15.50	£11.50
Wincanton Memorial Hall	£21.00	£31.50	£18.00	£11.50

All prices include the £1.50 Bath Box Office booking fee.

Supporter tickets: A supporter ticket (£31.50 at Bath and Wincanton, £26.50 at Pewsey) helps Bath Opera fund honoraria for the emerging professional artists in the BOYADS scheme — a lovely way to support the next generation while enjoying a wonderful summer evening or afternoon out. Do join us!